

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Figures 1-5 are amended to include and/or correct reference numbers as described in detail in the Remarks.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2008, Applicant amends his application and requests continued examination. In this Amendment claim 7 is cancelled and no claims are added so that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 12, and 14-25 are now pending.

Request for Interview

Pursuant to MPEP 706.07(b), Applicant's representative requests a personal interview before examination of this continuation application. Contact information for the Applicant's representative appears at the end of these Remarks.

Declaration

In response to the further requirement concerning the Application Data Sheet filed on April 5, 2007, a replacement Application Data Sheet is supplied but with the legend "Supplemental Application Data Sheet." The Supplemental Application Data Sheet fully complies with 37 CFR 1.76(c).

Drawings

The drawings were again objected to. Applicant and his representative have made an earnest effort to amend the application further with respect to the drawings and the specification so that they agree with each other. Previously, similar revisions were made. The Examiner has apparently not given consideration to some of those changes that were made because some repeated requirements are inconsistent with the revised specification, as described below. The further drawing amendments made and that appear on the replacement drawing sheets supplied here and the corresponding specification amendments are an attempt to advance the prosecution of this patent application. The specification is relatively brief and, at least as revised, easily

understood, particularly in conjunction with the drawings. Applicant's representative hopes to resolve any remaining formality issues in the personal interview that is requested above.

Revised Figures 1-5 are supplied here. In the interest of advancing the prosecution, the changes made and a response to the requested changes follows.

With respect to Figure 5, the Examiner renewed the request for the insertion of reference number 18, a step that has previously been taken. With respect to reference number 12 that indicates a hole present in each branch of the first lever and the pins 46, all figures have been revised to identify every pin 46 with that reference number, to the extent visible. Likewise, each hole is identified with reference number 12. No holes and pins, where engaged, are identified with a combination of reference numbers "12, 46" since that designation would seem to be confusing, apparently giving to a single element two reference numbers. No reference number 13 indicating any hole is added to any figure because reference number 13 does not appear in the specification as revised previously and that is further revised here. Moreover, reference number 13 was used to refer to two different elements in the original specification. That duplication was corrected in the previous Response. Adding a reference number that does not appear in the specification only invites a further objection. Likewise, reference number 17 is not added to any figure because reference number 17 was removed from the specification in the previous Response. It is apparent that the branches 14 and 15 are symmetrical and have the same parts so that it is sufficient to describe one branch, namely branch 14, with branch end 16, in the figures for a person of ordinary skill in the mechanical arts to understand the embodiment that is described in the patent application. Reference number 16 is added to Figure 5 and that reference number already appears in other figures. Since the attached replacement figures meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.83 and 1.84, approval of the replacement drawing sheets attached is respectfully requested.

Specification

In the previous Response three paragraphs were revised. The Examiner requested further revisions to each of those three paragraphs. An error appeared in paragraph [0028], which is corrected as requested. The error is regretted.

Paragraph [0029] is also further revised. Applicant respectfully disagrees that the description, particularly as revised here, is confusing. The description is entirely consistent with the drawings and is easily understood by a person with an ordinary level of skill in the mechanical arts. Applicant respectfully declines the Examiner's request that the paragraph be restored to its original form because that form was confusing in view of disagreement between reference numbers in the figures and the specification. That confusion, in fact, led to the original objection. Restoration of the former paragraph would not seem to advance the prosecution.

In view of the further objection to paragraph [0030] the paragraph has been further revised. As there is no hole 13 nor any use of the reference number 13 anywhere in the specification as revised, the changes made are consistent with the drawings.

Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Formality Rejections

Claim 1 included an inadvertent typographical error, the omission of the word "and." The omission was readily apparent and regretted. Claim 1 and all of the claims that depended from that claim were rejected as indefinite because of this omission. The claim has been amended and overcomes the rejection.

Applicant respectfully notes that there was no objection to or rejection of claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, and 15, other than based on the formality rejection of claim 1. However, there was no indication of allowability of those claims. Thus, it appears that the Office Action may have not been complete as required by 37 CFR 1.104(a). If there are further formality rejections of claims, Applicant respectfully requests an

indication of whether the claim, independent of the formality rejection, is allowable or rejected over prior art.

The formality rejection with respect to claim 7 is moot in view of the cancellation of that claim.

Claim Amendments

There are three pending independent claims in this patent application, claims 1, 16, and 20. Each of those three claims is amended in a parallel way in the final paragraph, (in addition to the correction of the typographical error in claim 1). Each of the three amended independent claims describes with greater precision that the grooves are located at the periphery of either the wheel, the substantially planar wheel, or the two substantially planar disks, depending upon the particular recitation in the respective claims. Further, the final paragraphs of each claim are amended to describe that each of the grooves has a central axis that is transverse, i.e., substantially perpendicular, to the respective wheel, substantially planar wheel, or two disks and, further, that the central axes are all substantially parallel to the pivot axis of the first and second levers. These amendments are all supported by the disclosure of the patent application. It is apparent that the wheel and disks as shown in the described embodiment include grooves 41, 42, and 43, each of which has a circular portion that clearly has a central axis that is perpendicular to the respective wheel or disk. Further, it is apparent that the central axes are all parallel to numerous other axes about which elements rotate, including the pivot axis 3.

Prior Art Rejections and Response

Claim 16, an independent claim, was rejected as anticipated by Bonito et al. (U.S. Patent 2,968,096, hereinafter Bonito). Claims 1, 2, 4, 17, 18, and 20-22 were rejected as obvious over Bonito either alone or considered in combination with either of McMurtrie (U.S. Patent 560,524) or Bradley (U.S. Patent 3,543,616). These rejections are all respectfully traversed.

Bonito, McMurtrie, and Bradley all relate to wire stripping tools. Each of the tools includes some kind of spool or roller that includes a peripheral groove through which insulated wire is drawn. The drawing either removes the insulation or scores the insulation enabling its subsequent removal. For the reasons already presented in the previous response, Applicant vigorously disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of any of these elements for guiding insulated wire as constituting a wheel, a substantially planar wheel, or a disk. Thus, the previous arguments are maintained and incorporated by reference without repetition.

To the extent any of the grooves in the wire guiding elements of Bonito, McMurtrie, and Bradley have central axes, it is apparent that all of those central axes are perpendicular to the pivot axes of the first and second levers of the respective tools. In Bonito, that pivot axis is identified with reference number 10. In McMurtrie, the pivot axis is identified by reference number 11. Bradley identifies a pin 18 that provides that pivot axis. It is elementary, by inspecting the figures of the three references, that all of the depicted wire strippers include the common feature of the transverse orientation of the pivot axis with respect to what might be considered a groove axis, if one exists, with respect to the guiding grooves identified in the Office Action.

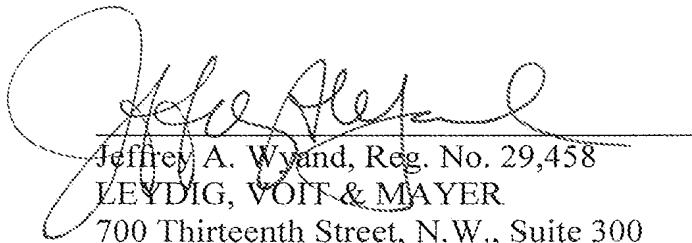
The combination of references only emphasizes the importance of the orthogonal relationship of the groove and pivot axes in wire stripping tools and suggests that one of skill in the art would not make a different arrangement, perhaps because of the unwieldiness of using a reoriented tool, as suggested in the previous Response.

It is fundamental that to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claim, at least all of the elements of the claimed invention must be shown to be known in the relevant art. If that premise is established, then a further question arises concerning the propriety of the combination of those elements in the determination. Since the fundamental requirement for establishing *prima facie* obviousness has not been established here with respect to the three amended independent claims, *prima facie*

obviousness cannot have been established with respect to any pending claim. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all claims now pending.

Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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